

Jefferson County SWCD Board Minutes ~ February 25, 2025

Jefferson County SWCD
625 SE Salmon Avenue ~ Suite 6
Redmond, OR 97756
541.699.3170

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2025 12:00 PM

Madras Airport Conference Room ~ Madras, Oregon and
Virtually Via Zoom

Members Present:

Board:

Lloyd Forman (Zone 4) - Chair
Brad Klann (Zone 2)
Rob Galyen (At Large 2) – Vice Chair
Curtis Locke (Zone 5) – Secretary/Treasurer
Craig Weigand (Zone 3)
Gary Richards (At Large 1)

Staff:

Kate Haarberg ~ District Manager
Adam Haarberg
Ellen Hammond
Ryan Brunner
Amber Herman
Ally Steinmetz – Absent

Advisors:

NRCS ~ Lars Santana
North Unit Irrigation District ~ Collin Cowsill
Andrea Kreiner w/ OACD on Zoom

Community:

Scott Samsel

SUMMARY OF BOARD MOTIONS

Motion #1: *Motion #1: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the January 29th, 2025 board minutes . Seconded by Gary Richards. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.*

Motion #2: *Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve Jan 2025 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Gary Richards. Motion carried unanimously. No Nays.*

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Call to Order:

The February 25th, 2025 Jefferson County SWCD Board meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Forman at 12:00 PM with a quorum in place.

Oath of Office

Swearing in of newly elected returning board members Curtis Locke and Craig Weigand.

Approval of the January 28th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes:

The January 28th, 2025 board minutes were emailed to the board before today's meeting for review.

Motion #1: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve the January 28th, 2025 board minutes. Seconded by Gary Richards. Motion carried unanimously with no Nays.

Grant Financials Overview: Kate Haarberg went through an overview of the current active grants. She explained the funds received and not yet spent against the funds spent but not yet received. Kate explained that 10% of the grant is held until the final report is approved which explained some outstanding balances due. Kate also pointed out the few grants that are currently frozen due to the Federal grant freeze happening including the IRA (inflation reduction act)

Approval of the February 2025 Financial Activity Report: Kate Haarberg went through the Profit & Loss and the Balance Sheet. Kate pulled up our Quickbooks and was able to explain the increase in our Indirect Funds over the years and how we came to the current higher balance.

Motion #2: Motion made by Rob Galyen to approve Jan 2025 financial activity report as submitted. Seconded by Gary Richards. Motion carried unanimously. No Nays.

Staff Check ins:

Ellen –

- PSP: big meeting, resulting on a current focus on linuron (and Prometryn) with carrot seed growers
- 4 grant proposals (ODA capacity, Lat43, OAHV Conservation Plan for Richards, PSP)
- PSP: working with various people to plan the 2023-25 PSP grant
- work with COAREC and OSU Ext to map irrigation methods and crop types across NUID
- March 11 Soil Health Workshop at Gary Richards Shop
- Help Ryan with March 12 and 13 Weed/Cropland workshops
- Appointed to statewide OACD Board through November (time commitment = 2 hrs/month)

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- Appointed to statewide Natural and Working Lands Technical Advisory Committee through
- 2027, which advises the Oregon Climate Action Commission on funding for Natural Climate Solutions (time commitment = 2 hrs/month).

Adam - Since the last meeting, I've been working hard with Tom Nelson over at ODFW to design these upcoming fish passage projects one on Auger Creek and one on Opal Creek. We submitted the first phase or 30% design package to BPA. I submitted my new 2 year BPA contract renewal package, worked with some revisions with my contact there and then he submitted it up to the higher level for a final approval. Finally got some water back in the creek and moving. We went out there yesterday and looked at the trapping site that ODFW has. Unfortunately, Tom downloaded the PITAG data and it's about 60% to 40%, hatchery versus wild, which we've never really seen out there.

Also, I've provided a bunch of information to the folks that are trying to get this new House bill passed to continue the Juniper work for drought relief and other reasons. They had a hearing on the 19th, which supposedly went very well. If it passes, we're slated to get \$500,000.

Amber – Since our last meeting, we've had like some outreach stuff going on so far obviously which was good for me to see never been before, met a lot of great people. And then the NRCS also had their local work group meetings both in Deschutes County and Jefferson County that I attended. Lots of partners there. So that was good. To see that process as well and get input from the public. And then... due to my IRA grant not being funded and the PSP money needing to get spent before June, I've been helping Ellen with some stuff regarding PSP, which has been interesting kind of different work than what I have been doing, but it's good to kind of broaden my horizons.

Ryan Brunner - So I don't really have any good updates. I spent a ton of time on the Oregon State weekly grant for \$46,000. Attended their annual meeting yesterday and found out my grant was not funded because we don't have any state Class A noxious weeds. Forest Service funding is frozen and same with the BLM. I'm starting on the county right-of-ways We'll be starting on ODOT pits and rights-of-way here soon. Have some PSP stuff going on. We have two meetings in March that I'm excited for.

Review of Board Officers Positions - Directors job descriptions were emailed prior to the meeting. Kate asked if anyone had questions, or if anyone at this time wanted to have a different position or if they wanted out of their current role. At this time no changes were made to the Board positions.

Weed Coordinator Position – Annual Review

As we finish off the year of the new Agreement with JeffCo Public Works for the Weed Coordinator position we are required to conduct an annual review of the program. We recently found out that the “Agreement” renewed itself on July 1st 2024, so I worked with Matt Powlison to come up with a new total \$ to get us through June 2025.

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In addition, upon studying the actual expenses, it has become apparent that \$82,600 is not enough to cover 75% of Ryan's time. In addition, it's not contributing any funds towards our indirect expenses. All our other grants contribute 10% towards indirect costs for the district. What this means is that we are going to ask the County for additional funds in March as they finalize their budget. Currently our ask is approximately \$104,000. This would include wages/benefits for 75% of the Weed Coordinator position, approximately \$9000 for Admin, as well as a few other incidental expenses and then 10% indirect for hard costs.

In addition to this, Kate wanted to point out that the other 25% of the positions are not yet funded for 25/26 fiscal year. This is in part due to not receiving the ODA grant, and the BLM grant getting shut off before being submitted. Ryan will continue to search out funding opportunities and work with other grants writers to be a part of other grants (Ellen).

Jeff SWCD Hazardous Materials Policy –

Kate has been working with SDIS to update/add policies. We were told we needed a Hazardous Materials Policy because of our exposure to pesticides. It was decided everyone needed more time to review it and we can put it back on the agenda for March.

NRCS Check-in with Lars Santana –

Local work group meetings in February went well. Some of the i guess some of the key takeaways for the irrigation related stuff, we had a good discussion on our ranking process and how we are going to try to reorganize our efficiency scores, essentially, on how we rank projects. There was a lot of discussion on Trout Creek and Rangeland improvement projects. There was a strong need it sounded like the folks in the room on like grazing infrastructure so stuff related to like livestock grazing like fencing spring development, stop water.

Wasco County has a Conservation effort focusing on improving range conditions. And there's some questions about that because some of the ranchers have ground both Wasco and Jefferson. I reached Wasco County since the local work group meeting just to touch base on their projects and sounds like there's a ton of interest for range improvements in that part of Glasgow County. The problem is they're getting tons of applications, and we don't have the budget. And so with limited budget, you know, how do we prioritize those resource concerns? So that's kind of the world I'm in right now, trying to figure that out.

With IRA specifically, the Inflation Reduction Act. That was frozen for a while. Now, certain parts of it are starting to shake loose. For, for example, you know, I couldn't make any payments related to IRA programs, which is not good for the participants that get to get paid for their projects. But I was able to make those payments on Monday. So that element of that IRA for us was approved. IRA is huge and there's tons of different outlets out there, so I can't speak to the rest of it.

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North Unit Irrigation Check-in with Collin Cowsill – Well, our snow is melting. Bowman Dam, they're conducting flood control operations right now because the rate of snow melt is filling up the reservoir. They're discharging 2,500-acre feet from Bowman today. That might go well keep on the dam from over top and then to create some space in there So we might have to go down to the pump station and pull those pumps. The grant I applied for wants to construct a ramp flume down there in mud springs at the tail end of the 5811 pipelines so we can monitor the tail end dial in our water operations has finally been approved so we'll be starting that project this season. I'm starting what we're calling the on-farm conservation effort with Ellen through the IWM, the grant program. I'll be presenting at Ryan's workshop at Richard's place.

We are launching the surplus water program this season you recall the surplus water is water that shows up due to some weather event or operational event upstream that is essentially free, but we don't call it free. It's just surplus water. So, when the district makes an announcement that says, hey, we have a surplus water event coming up You can place an order for that surplus water and the water, the surplus water does not count against your allotment. You're essentially banking your allotment and taking some of the surplus water while it's available could be three days, it could be a week in terms of the cycle that's available. You'll be able to order online if you have an online water account or you can call it in, and we'll take the orders over the phone. Those announcements will come in the form of a robocall and then we'll send an email as well and those will be the two forms of announcement that we give about surplus water.

Andrea Kreiner with OACD (on Zoom) – Andrea thanked everyone for letting her join the meeting and thanks for letting Ellen come join the OACD board of directors. She's going to be a great asset to us as I can see she is to you guys.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Next board meetings is set for Tuesday, March 25th 12:00 pm at the Madras Airport

Meeting Adjourned by Lloyd at 1:36